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may be well proportioned to its amount, and although his earlier writings are not wanting in perspicuity, it is reported that his fellow-laborers among his own countrymen find it difficult to understand his later publications.

CHRISTIAN LASSEN.

AMONG the many illustrious scholars who have passed away during the last year, none had achieved a higher or more deserved fame than CHRISTIAN LASSEN, of Bonn. He was a native of Norway, born at Bergen almost with the century, or late in 1800; and he died on the 8th of May last. The weakness of age, with a growing infirmity of eyesight, which rendered him during all the last years of his life nearly blind, has withdrawn him for some time from the ranks of the active workers, and given him the aspect of a survivor from a past generation. He belongs, indeed, to the little band of men who inaugurated in Europe the study of India through its own sacred language, the Sanskrit; and he was the last of them yet left in life. It is striking and strange that there should have died so recently one whose activity as a scholar covered the whole history of a branch of knowledge which has assumed such importance and prominence, which has yielded such great results, and become an acknowledged necessity to an education in philology. Lassen was led to take up Sanskrit by the influence of A. W. von Schlegel, under whom he first studied at Bonn, becoming afterwards his collaborator, and his successor. The (incomplete) *Rāmāyana*, the *Bhagavadgītā*, and the *Hitopadeṣa*, were the works in whose preparation he took more or less part: the two last of these, especially, are still authoritative, unsurpassed in method and merit of execution. In 1827 appeared his first two works: the celebrated *Essai sur le Pāli*, prepared in company with Burnouf, and a geographical and historical dissertation on the Penjab, which was the forerunner of his gigantic *Indische Alterthumskunde*, the principal labor of his life. This began to appear in 1847, and was broken off with the fourth volume in 1861-62, by reason of its author's physical infirmities; although he was still able to produce a second edition of the first two volumes, rewritten and enlarged, in 1867-74. It was the misfortune of this work, meritorious as it is, that it was begun too soon for the results of the Vedic researches to be brought fully into its early portions. The study of India, indeed, was and still is in too inchoate a state to admit of its results being cast into any thing like a permanent form. Apart from those already mentioned, Lassen's principal contributions to this department of learning were an edition of the

Gitagovinda; with notes and Latin version; part of the drama *Mâlâtî-Mâdhava*; a Sanskrit Anthology, with glossary; and an elaborate Prâkrit grammar: also, a host of important articles in Oriental journals. Of the *Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* he was long editor and chief author. He by no means, however, confined his studies to India. His aid in the decipherment of the Persian cuneiform inscriptions was very important; and he tried his hand also, with effect, upon the Umbrian. The Zend and modern Persian were subjects included in his University lectures.

Lassen was admirable for singleness and simplicity of character, freedom from affectation or pedantry, and courtesy and helpfulness to his pupils. A contented cheerfulness of disposition, too, was a striking characteristic. Few men have combined a life so splendid in the eyes of the learned world with such narrowness of means and such physical trials. The failing of his eyes, probably brought on by excessive use in difficult collations, began to grow serious after 1840; and it was followed by other weaknesses, which compelled him to spend the greater part of his time reclining on a lounge, and to be wheeled about in a chair. His lectures came to an end in 1864. His last literary work was done by the aid of his wife and of a reader and amanuensis. He lost until the very end neither his memory nor his keen interest for every thing that bore upon the studies of his life. He was married in 1849, and leaves no children.

JOHANN CHRISTIAN POGGENDORFF.

THE story of the noble and useful life of Johann Christian Poggendorff may be told in a few words. He was born at Hamburg, Dec. 29, 1796; received his early education at the Gymnasium in that city; and at the age of sixteen entered the shop of an apothecary, where he remained eight years. In 1821, he became a student in the University of Berlin, and in the following year published his first paper, in which he described the galvanometer, since, in its improved form, so necessary an instrument of physical research. The true work of his life began in 1824, when he issued the first number of the "*Annalen der Physik und Chemie*" as a continuation of the "*Annalen der Physik*" of Gilbert. During fifty-three years, Poggendorff directed the publication of the "*Annalen*,"—the noblest scientific periodical which has ever appeared, the one work which is indispensable to the student of physical science. Every important memoir in any department of physics appeared in this journal. Almost the whole scientific life of Berzelius,